

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 2014 | INDIA



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Taste of State – a delicious take on exchanges!



Calling all exchange participants and exchange alumni! You went on an exchange – now exchange again! Taste of State is our FIRST global recipe exchange! Submit your favorite recipes from around the world with photos to the [International Exchange Alumni](http://goo.gl/oB5h8o) Tumblr <http://goo.gl/oB5h8o>. Top submissions will be featured in the FIRST ever Taste of State online cookbook! If you aren't an exchange alumna/us you can still participate! Share your favorite recipes by using the #TasteOfState hashtag on Facebook and Twitter and dig in!

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES FROM THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY IN INDIA AND BHUTAN

U.S. CONSULATE CHENNAI

Alumni led documentary screening for school children on child sexual abuse



International Visitor Leadership Program alumnus Sampath Muthuvelan is a singer, actor, mimic and trained counselor as well as a trustee of Nalamdana, an NGO that has reached more than half a million people through street theatre, television dramas, interactive media and print.

Sampath recently interacted with students of Chennai High School, Kottur on child rights and protection. A documentary screening on Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) was organized as part of the Exchange Visitor Alumni Association initiatives on September 12, 2014.

Alumni led security seminar in Chennai



The Center for Asia Studies, Chennai, in association with the U.S. Consulate General Chennai and with support by the Exchange Visitors Alumni Association of South India (EVAA), organized a day-long seminar on "Security Imperatives in a Changing Global Order: Recent Developments in the Middle East and West Asia" in Chennai on Saturday, September 27, 2014. This conference was made possible with a small grant (\$8500) provided to Commodore R.S. Vasan, Head of Strategy and Security Studies, Center for Asia Studies and IVLP alumna.

More than 60 academics, security specialists, journalists, post graduate students and research scholars attended the conference. The panelists and moderators included eminent scholars and former bureaucrats from all over India, including Dr. Kingshuk Chatterjee from the University of Calcutta, Dr. Sujata Cheema from the Center for West Asian Studies, Jamia Millia, Dr. P.R. Kumaraswamy from the Department of Middle Eastern Studies, JNU, Prof. AK Pasha from the Gulf Studies Program of JNU, Dr. Robert Lloyd, Senior Fulbright -Nehru Scholar with the OP Jindal University and others.

Workshop empowers Chennai students on leadership skills and kick starts projects



Consul General Phil Min greets alumni mentors Dr. Saundarya Rajesh and Commodore R.K. Vasan



Students warm up in a discussion with CG Min and Fulbright Alumna Dr. Lakshmi Ramaswamy at the Kickst'art workshop.



Student groups create flags with unique elements that best represents their group

On September 25-26, 2014, CG Phil Min inaugurated the "Kickst'art Challenge" alumni youth empowerment project with a two-day leadership skills-building workshop attended by 100 college students. The workshop was led by IVLP alumnus and leadership trainer Mr. Arun Krishnamurthy, Founder, Environmentalist Foundation of India, using experiential methods. At this workshop the students received lessons on leadership tenets such as decision making, communication skills, creativity and goal-setting techniques, and had an opportunity to discuss their goals and aspirations with alumni and expert leaders.

Eleven group projects and several individual projects were identified with a six-month timeline which the students and 30 alumni mentors will together accomplish. Projects ranged in topic: reviving folk arts, waste management, rural development and more. Alumni mentors (journalists, think-tank experts, educators, artists, NGO leaders and corporate leaders) made a commitment to help and guide the students for six months in their efforts to attain their identified goals. The program was designed to engage alumni resources in a sustained six-month period to nurture and help identify young leaders who otherwise lack access to successful professionals.

U.S. CONSULATE HYDERABAD

The September 2014 Hyderabad Alumni Meetup: Appreciating sustainable furniture, tiger conservation efforts and social work education!



Alumni of Consulate Hyderabad's different exchange programs organized a monthly meet-up on September 19 at the American Corner. PAS Hyderabad provided support for this meet-up. At this event, alumni shared news and views of their ongoing and upcoming activities and programs. CCI alumnus Raju Pulivandlas, who has recently returned to Hyderabad after spending an academic year at the Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood, Washington, was the master of ceremonies for the evening. IVLP alumnus Imran Siddiqui, the founder of Hyderabad Tiger Conservation Society (HyTiCoS) talked about tiger conservation efforts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and how we can help in protecting this magnificent animal. IVLP alumna Aruna Kappagantula, the Founder of Bamboo House India, introduced her new innovative line of eco-friendly furniture and shared how she decided to work with this unusual material. Another IVLP alumna Ayesha Rubina, an educationist and a co-opted member of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, spoke about the recently founded Center for Social Sciences that aims to offer a diploma in social work. SUSI alumna Athulya Vanchinathan led an interesting activity, the Patchwork Quilt, that helped evaluate one's tendency to "construct stories", and to learn to listen, observe and communicate better, thus opening one up to more enriching experiences.

As always, the meet-up provided a great opportunity for alumni to network with each other and discuss ways to collaborate on projects that can help advance the mutual goals of the Consulate and the wider community. The meet-

up helped the U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad forge a stronger relationship with its alumni and also contributed to expanding and strengthening people-to-people relationships.

Alumni led Mentorship Program for Start-up Women Entrepreneurs



The Mentorship Program for Start-Up Women Entrepreneurs, a three month program led by successful alumni women entrepreneurs, was concluded on September 24. The program was designed by IVLP alumna Hema Subramanyam and Fortune alumnae Divya Medar and Bala Mukkamala, with the objective of 'paying it forward'. The participants were aspiring women entrepreneurs who have founded or co-founded businesses. By mentoring these start-up women entrepreneurs and offering them an opportunity to benefit from a peer to peer knowledge sharing platform, classroom and experiential learning, and mentoring support, the alumni aim to enhance the business skills and knowledge of the participants. The program led participants through different phases of enhancing their entrepreneurial ventures by sharing with them the first-hand journeys and experiences of successful women entrepreneurs who have participated in Department of State sponsored exchange programs. In the last session, the participants made investment pitches to external judges from Unltd. Hyderabad. This mentorship program gave the alumni an opportunity to meaningfully engage with their local communities. It also helped Consulate Hyderabad forge a long-term relationship with alumni and contribute in expanding and strengthening people-to-people relationships.

"Think globally... act locally" - IVLP alumnus marks the International Day of Peace



IVLP alumnus, Yugabrata Kar, marked the International Day of Peace at Gambhari village where the residents had been trapped in years of conflict due to political rivalry between two powerful groups. Yugabrata has been working in Gambhari for a year and has contributed significantly in turning around the situation in the village by helping set up a Village Peace Committee. This has resulted in the village making a record of zero violence in the last one

year, a massive change from the time when there were 20 riots, two murders, five house burning cases and more than 100 bombings in two years. On the International Day of Peace, more than 2000 villagers, Tathagat Satpathy – a district administrator, parliamentarian & journalist, Puri Rotary Club members and Yugabrata came together to celebrate peace with support from the police and collectors. A workshop for women was organized to help them learn ways to fight against illegal alcohol trade in a peaceful way – alcoholism is a big issue in Gambhari. A Peace Volleyball tournament was organized for the youth and the winners got to play with the police Volleyball team. An art competition was organized for the children and the 350 paintings will soon be a part of a travelling art exhibition on

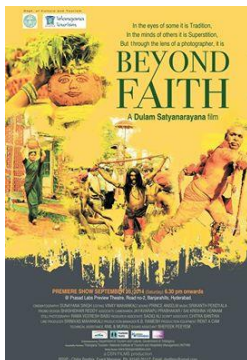
peace. A “Katputli” performance with a meaningful story was planned for all the participants. These events were covered by the Odisha Post and Yugabrata is presently making a ten-minute film on this initiative and its impact on the village.

IVLP alumnus reaches a new milestone in setting up libraries in Odisha



IVLP alumnus, Sujit Mahapatra, is one of the leading personalities in the volunteerism movement in Odisha. Through the Bakul Foundation, he has initiated several volunteer drives and the Bakul public library is the most impactful example of this. He recently set up another public library in Cuttack as well as 18 other libraries for various government schools as well as schools and hostels run by the tribal department of Odisha.

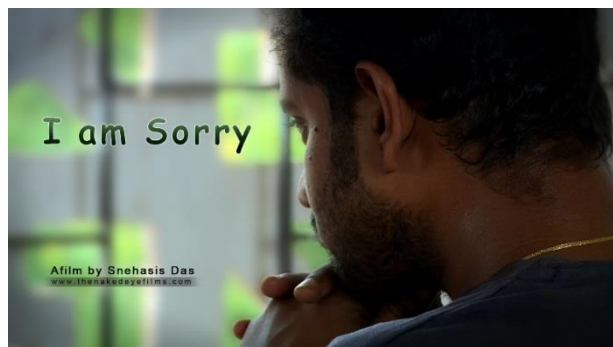
CCI alumnus showcases his documentary film



CCI alumnus Dulam Satyanarayana's latest documentary film "Beyond Faith" premiered on September 20, 2014.

The documentary film was commissioned by the Department of Tourism and Culture and chronicles the journey of a postal assistant who has been photographing the spirit of Bonalu festival for the past 25 years. It depicts how a metropolis can transform into a village-like atmosphere during a month-long folk festival that includes colorful processions and community feasts.

Alumnus wins national award for his short film on people with disability



IVLP alumnus (MRP on Promoting Social Change Through the Arts in 2013) and documentary filmmaker and director, Snehasis Das, makes meaningful films addressing various social issues including gender based violence, people with disabilities and active citizenship. Snehasis awarded the national award by the *We Care* Film Festival 2014 in the sixty-seconds category for his film “[I am Sorry](#)”, a documentary about a victim of the 2006 Mumbai train blasts. “My visit to USA for the IVLP program in 2013 gave an opportunity to meet Christine Bruno, a talented Hollywood actor with disability. This meeting inspired me to

make films that address the need to not only support people with disabilities but also make the effort to understand them”.

Snehasis was also awarded the national award in 2013 by the *We Care* Film Festival in the sixty second category for the film “[If We Can Walk Together](#)”. He produced “I am Sorry” with the help of this prize money. His next project is a campaign for the Department of Sports and Youth Services, Government of Odisha and UNFPA that aims to motivate the youth to become active citizens.

IVLP alumna nominated for the prestigious “NELSON MANDELA - Graca Machel Innovation Award”



Dr. [Sunitha Krishnan](#), co-founder of [Prajwala](#) and IVLP alumna (SRP on Women and Child Trafficking in 1998) is a finalist for the "2014 NELSON MANDELA - Graca Machel Innovation Award". The voting ended on September 25, 2014 and the results will be known in November 2014. Prajwala stands upon five pillars: prevention, rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration and advocacy. The organization extends moral, financial, legal and social support to victims and ensures that perpetrators are brought to justice. To date Prajwala has rescued, rehabilitated, or served over 9,500 survivors of sex trafficking. The organization's "second-generation"

prevention program operates in 17 transition centers and has helped prevent thousands of children of women forced into prostitution. Prajwala also operates a shelter home for rescued children and adult victims of sex trafficking, many of whom are HIV positive. Dr. Krishnan not only leads these interventions, but has also spearheaded an economic rehabilitation program which trains survivors in carpentry, welding, printing, masonry and housekeeping. You can read more about Dr. Sunitha Krishnan here - <http://goo.gl/b8Wj7I>. (Image source: Creative Commons)

U.S. CONSULATE KOLKATA

IVLP alumna participates in USNATO tour



Alumna Dr Sreeradha Datta participated in the highly successful USNATO Tour from September 21-24. This was a first for PA India as well as a first for NATO to be hosting a group from India. The program had 4 Members of Parliament and 5 think tankers from all over India, and saw several high level, in-depth discussions. Both USNATO and the visiting group agreed that both benefitted immensely from this interaction and that this engagement should be a regular annual feature as US-India relations blossom. Dr. Sreeradha Datta is currently the Director of the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata, an institute founded in 1993 as an autonomous body funded by the Ministry of Culture,

Government of India since September 2011. In 2006 she participated in the State Department's International Leadership Visitors Program on International Security issues.

Consul General meets with alumni in Meghalaya

The Consul General travelled to Meghalaya this month and met with a core alumni group in the state. The alumni represented a cross section of civil society – NGO, education, think tanks and women's issues. The meeting enabled us to connect with important alumni in Meghalaya who are beneficiaries of U.S. exchange programs, and make use of that connection to gain insight into the challenges and opportunities in Meghalaya.

CCIP alumni shares her U.S. experience with students in her hometown



CCIP alumna Zenith Lairikyengbam has taken her community college experience to students in her hometown of Manipur, sharing her experience and encouraging them to study abroad. Zenith attended Miami Dade College, Kendall Campus Miami, FL for 10 months and focused on entrepreneurship. She describes her experience in the U.S. as a major turning point in her career from which she gained considerable exposure and many new ideas and innovative work styles. Working with an NGO specializing in career guidance, Zenith has been travelling to various schools in her home state to speak with the students about her experience and inform them about U.S. culture, society, lifestyle, education system and the various benefits of studying in a U.S. educational institution.

Fulbrighter selected for Global Links Program 2015

Fulbrighter Dr. Sarmishta Banerjee has been selected for the 2015 Global Links Program - a program supported By Tupperware Brands Corporation, Rollins College and the Secretary's Office of Global Women's Issues. She will participate in the capacity-building "train-the-trainer" model designed to expand entrepreneurship opportunities for Indian women. Dr. Banerjee seeks to disseminate new ideas of enterprise among young women at the grassroots level, and this program provides her with the perfect opportunity to develop these ideas into reality. Sarmishta Banerjee has been a Fulbright Scholar in Residence in Business (and Allied areas) in Moreno Valley College in 2012.

U.S. CONSULATE MUMBAI

IVLP alumnus declared Exchange Alumni Member of the Month

Mr. Biplab Paul, IVLP alumnus and founder of Naireeta Services Pvt. Ltd., working with marginalized women farmers was declared as the Exchange Alumni Member of Month on the International Exchange Alumni website. You may find out more about Biplab on the website: <https://alumni.state.gov/alumni-story/gandhis-footsteps>

Salzburg Seminar alumnus meets Senior State Department Officials

Col. Retd. Anil Athale (Indian Army), a Salzburg alumnus, met with Senior Officials of the Department of State on September 4, 2014. Col. Athale met with Senior Officers to discuss counterterrorism issues, non-proliferation initiatives and ideas to deal with threat of nuclear terrorism. He also met with Prof. Robert Boggs, Near East South Asia (NESA) at National Defense University; Prof. Steven Cohen from The Brookings Institution and the NIC (National Intelligence Centre). The meetings provided an opportunity to establish connections between key U.S.

Government officials and the Indian think-tank to discuss various issues on enhancing security and law enforcement cooperation. The meetings also provided an opportunity for Col. Athale to gain knowledge that he will be able to contribute in his research writing for the study of Indian Armed Forces.

Alumni promote American Library resources:

On September 6, the American Library conducted a workshop on “Enhancing Research and Teaching of Literature through e-resources”. The inaugural address on “E-resources: A Gateway to Research Possibilities”, was made by IVLP alumna Dr. Mala Pandurang. On September 20, IVLP alumna Ms. Roshni Udyavar Yehuda, HOD, Academy of Environmental Architecture, arranged for her students to visit the American Library for an orientation program.



U.S. Speaker interacts with Muslim alumni

U.S. Speaker, Dr. Bruce Lawrence a core faculty and Prof. Emeritus of Religion at the Islamic Studies Center of Duke University, met with IVLP alumni Ms. Shaheena Khatib and Mr. Abdul Gafoor Parekh, both Quran scholars in Nagpur, on September 8. In Mumbai, on September 10, Dr. Lawrence visited a madrassa where he interacted with officials and imams of various madrassas and mosques in Mumbai, including IVLP alumni Maulana Zaheer Abbas Rizvi, Maulana Ather Ali Syed and Maulana Mohd. Khalid Ashraf. Dr. Lawrence's well-researched presentations on Islamic teachings, diverse interpretations of Quran, significance of Sufism in South Asia/India, as well as the history and evolution of Muslim cosmopolitanism across the globe were highly regarded.



IVLP alumnus coordinates pro-feminist men's interventions seminar in Pune

On September 12-13, the Department of Politics and Public Administration, Savitribai Phule Pune University hosted a seminar on “The Representation and Reconstruction of Masculinities in Western India” organized by the Centre for Health and Social Justice. Dr. Mangesh Kulkarni, an IVLP alumnus, was the seminar coordinator and gave introductory remarks.

The last three decades have witnessed the slow but sure emergence of pro-feminist men's interventions in India and around the world. They have given rise to a significant scholarly enterprise, namely, Critical Masculinity Studies, and have found expression in a large number of civil society initiatives, leading to the formation of MenEngage (ME) – a global alliance of organizations and individuals working with men and boys for gender equality. The first ME Global Symposium was held in 2009 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The second will be hosted later this year by the Centre for Health and Social Justice (New Delhi) – an NGO that has been engaged in pro-feminist activism for more than a decade. A number of events have been planned in different regions of the country as a prelude to the second Global Symposium. Dr. Kulkarni is a member of the South Asia Steering Committee of the Second MenEngage Global Symposium on 'Men and Boys for Gender Justice', to be held in New Delhi November 10-13, 2014.

The academic seminar on ‘The Representation and Reconstruction of Masculinities in Western India’ - the first of its kind - was held as part of this process. The primary purpose of the interdisciplinary seminar was to explore various aspects of masculinities and sexualities in the region within national and global perspectives, and to suggest directions for further research and interventions to promote the long-term project of dismantling patriarchy. Accordingly, it brought together more than forty concerned scholars and activists. It is hoped that the seminar will give a fillip to Critical Masculinity Studies, create synergy between research and activism, and generate insights that will boost pro-feminist interventions in the region and beyond.



U.S. University Alumni Fair in Pune



On September 13, the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai hosted a U.S. University Alumni Fair in the Tier 2 city of Pune. Although Pune is one of India's biggest "college towns", it doesn't see as much engagement from U.S. recruiters as other major Indian cities. As demonstrated by the huge turnout at the fair, students and parents in Pune are very interested in study in the United States and getting information that can help them plan and make decisions about their educational future. The Alumni Fair gave Indian students and their parents the opportunity to connect directly with alumni of U.S. universities who have lived and experienced student life in the United

States, including Indian Fulbright scholars. Over 800 people visited the fair, which featured Indian alumni who had studied at 27 different universities in the United States, as well as representatives from some of the universities and admissions testing bodies like GMAT and SAT. There were general information sessions that included discussions

about the university selection process, how study in the United States can make students successful in their careers, how to fund a U.S. education, and how to apply for a U.S. student visa. Among the institutions represented were Arizona State University, Columbia University, Harvard University, and Gallaudet University, which specializes in education for hearing-impaired students. Thanks to Indian Fulbrighter, Dr. Asmita Huddar, the Consulate engaged an Indian Sign Language interpreter, who interpreted the presentations for the 50+ hearing impaired Indian students in attendance. U.S. Consulate General consular officers and EducationUSA advisers from the U.S.-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) delivered presentations and answered questions from students and parents. Several media outlets covered the fair, which garnered broad, positive coverage in both English and vernacular press.



SCA/PPD Director meets with alumni

Seeds of Peace alumni met with the Director of the South and Central Asia Public Diplomacy Section on September 17th, and shared their experiences as “Seeds” at the camp in Maine, and their thoughts on the peace process between India and Pakistan, women’s empowerment and the role of the United States in South Asia.

The Director also met with IVLP alumnus, Mr. Harish Sadani to learn more about his organization MAVA (Men Against Violence and Abuse), the first men's organization in India directly intervening to stop and prevent gender-based violence especially on women.

Seeds hold Peace Walk in Mumbai

Bridges to Peace Mumbai is a campaign to raise awareness and support for Seeds of Peace’s work with a new generation of leaders in the Middle East, South Asia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. On the International Day of Peace on September 21, Seeds, their families, delegation leaders, counselors, and supporters hosted a peace walk in Mumbai.



IVLP alumna’s translation featured in Indian Literature Journal

IVLP alumna, Dr. Nutan Kotak’s English translation of a Gujarati play Photographer has been published in the Indian Literature (Sahitya Akademi’s Bimonthly Journal) July/August 2014 issue.

IVLP alumnus ranked in prestigious legal directories

IVLP alumnus Mr. Zulfiqar Memon was ranked by the premiere global legal professional's directory - Chambers and Partners as a 'Leading Lawyer for Dispute Resolution' for the year 2014 as part of their Asia Pacific and Global editions. Mr. Memon was also ranked by the premiere global legal professional's directory - Who's Who Legal in the 'Who's Who of Business Crime Defence' for the year 2015. These legal directories list lawyers based on an independent selection process that includes client and peer evaluations.

News from IVLP alumna's work place:



conduct of 100,000 surgeries, all free of cost, in rural India.

IVLP alumna, Ms. Neelam Kshirsagar, informed us that the Impact India Foundation, where she works as General Manager, Special Projects is happy to announce that the world's first hospital train, Impact's Lifeline Express Hospital Train, on September 16, 2014, has medically served one million rural disabled poor having completed the

Fulbright alumna starts unique social enterprise



Fulbright alumna, Ms. Naiyya Saggi an MBA from Harvard University, is the co-founder of BabyChakra, an online platform that connects parents to services and products to make parenting a less tedious affair.

Media Interaction with Seeds of Peace alumni



The U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai organized a media interview with Mumbai English tabloid *Afternoon Despatch & Courier* for the recently returned Seeds of Peace. Through the media interview, readers got to know how the Seeds of Peace program inspires and equips new generations of leaders from regions of conflict with the relationships, understanding, and skills needed to advance lasting peace. Over the last 22 years, Seeds of Peace has intensified its impact, dramatically increasing the number of participants, represented nations, and programs. From 46 American, Egyptian, Israeli and Palestinian teenagers in 1993, they have expanded programming to include young leaders ("Seeds") from across the Middle East, South Asia, Cyprus and the Balkans.

Article available at: http://www.afternooncd.in/city-news/seeds-of-peace-not-blind-patriotism/article_119203

EMBASSY NEW DELHI**SUSI, NESA, YES and CCIP alumni interact through games with counterparts in Pakistan**

On September 12, a group of thirty alumni of USG-sponsored educational exchange programs came together on a social gaming platform to break cross-border stereotypes and bridge cultural understanding through interactive games. As they participated in different team-building activities and skits via Internet, the participants realized the importance of citizen-level diplomacy in promoting cross-cultural harmony and, after the gaming session, decided to continue the interaction through social media. Many thanks to the Pakistan-US Alumni Network (PUAN) for helping organize the fun event!

Delhi CCIP alumni reunion and planning meeting

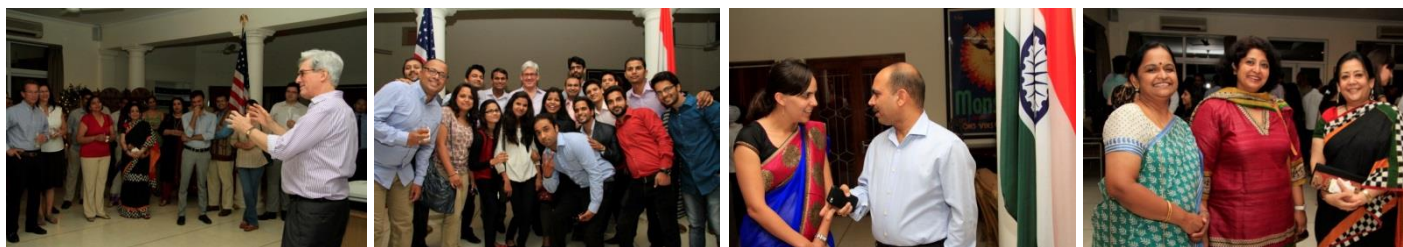
New Delhi alumni of the Community College Initiative Program (CCIP) met with the Exchanges team on September 17th for an informal reunion and meeting to discuss future engagement among the group and with the American Center. Over pizza, the alumni shared their experience in the U.S. and some of the challenges they've faced since coming back to India. It was decided that a monthly meeting would be organized every month starting in November, where different alumni would take the initiative to lead the activities for that month. Stay tuned for more on this in our upcoming issues!

South Asian YES alumni gather in Delhi for social entrepreneurship workshop

American Field Services (AFS) organized a workshop on digital storytelling and social entrepreneurship for regional alumni of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program from September 17-23rd. Participants from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, and Malaysia received training on how to develop a social venture around an issue of concern to them/their communities and how to share stories about their work for maximum impact. Held in partnership with Ashoka's Youth Venture, the workshop highlighted the importance of team-building and effective communication skills in developing a successful business model. The Indian participants included Jennifer Chen, Chandrajit Chingakham, Janak Gajjar, Pooja Shah, and Arun Sharma. IVLP alumna Dr. Anvita Arora, who runs her own social enterprise, Innovative Transport Solutions (iTrans), acted as judge at the end of the workshop. Read the participants' digital stories [here](#).

US Embassy hosts reception for alumni; video highlighting four alumni screened

The Minister Counselor for Public Affairs, Mr. Walter Douglas, hosted a reception celebrating the exchange alumni based in Delhi at his residence on September 24th. Approximately 100 guests, including visiting American Fulbright scholars, alumni and staff, mingled and caught up with old friends. A video showcasing the experiences and achievements of four diverse alumni – from the IVLP, CCIP, FORTUNE programs – was screened during the reception. While each alumna/alumnus had visited the US on a different program, they all highlighted how their participation in their programs left them with greater confidence widened perspectives, and a sense of community. You can watch the video [here](#).



Panel discussion with U.S. hunger expert Joel Berg, Dr. N. C. Saxena and IVLP alumnus Biraj Patnaik



In collaboration with the Center for Equity studies, the American Center New Delhi organized a panel discussion on “Fighting Domestic Hunger: What can the U.S. and India Learn from Each Other?” on September 29th. Keynote speaker Joel Berg, Executive Director, New York City Coalition Against Hunger, and Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress, spoke on the role of government in ensuring that pro-poor policies are implemented to eradicate hunger and poverty. Berg cited the examples of successful government efforts in the U.S. to fight epidemics such as yellow fever and cholera in the 1960s and how such efforts need to be replicated to combat hunger. The discussion continued with Dr. N. C. Saxena, Former Secretary-Rural Development, Government of India, and Former Member, National Advisory Council, who focused on the issues of production and distribution, especially with the Food Corporation of India (the principal government body which procures and distributes subsidized grain around the country). It was rounded out by Ms. Anuradha Talwar, National Secretary, New Trade Union Initiative, who presented the view from the grassroots level in India and the impact international trade negotiations have on the ground. IVLP alumnus Biraj Patnaik, Principal Adviser to the Supreme Court Commissioners on the Right to Food, moderated the event which was attended by students, researchers, lawyers, and members of civil society. For some coverage of the event, see [here](#).

Bowling at ACSA



On September 30th, six alumni of the YES and SUSI for Student Leaders programs joined the Exchanges team for a fun session of ten-pin bowling at the ACSA Club, U.S. Embassy. It was the first time bowling for many of the participants and everyone had a great time!

IVLP Alumna Aparajita Sharma earns her PhD in Social Work Aparajita PhD

Last month, IVLP alumna, Aparajita Sharma, was awarded her doctoral degree from the Department of Social Work, University of Delhi. Entitled, “Education for Peace: Ideology of School Education in Assam,” her thesis examines the ideology of school education in a uniquely cosmopolitan and multi-cultural milieu in Udalguri in Assam. Sharma finds that schooling in its present form in the state is a colonial legacy. A bureaucratic control over the educators and the content of the teaching process incisively show a hegemonic trend from colonial till present times. Three different peace narratives were found based on the fears, threats, and suspects, experience of violence, discrimination, perpetrator and protectors articulated by the Muslim, Bodos, and Assamese educators and “educands.” This has shown a significant variance in the perception of themselves and others, and the contours of identity of educands are shaped on what beliefs and values are hallowed by the educators. The process of dialogue to develop peace by the transformative agency of both the educator and educand is therefore interrupted by structural violence and hegemonic ideas prevalent in the area.

IVLP alumna awarded the Dastaan Award 2014

IVLP (2010) alumna, Anubha Yadav - who teaches broadcast studies at the University of Delhi - was recently awarded the Dastaan Award 2014 by the Desi Writers Lounge (DWL) for her short-story, “The Song of Bismil.” DWL is an organization committed to furthering literary awareness and growth in South Asia, and this is the second year of the award. The judges noted that “Yadav’s greatest accomplishment in this story is that she took a typical character, gave him an atypical job and used this weird combination to subtly explore issues much larger than the character or the setting. Through her character’s greed and ambition for social mobility, Yadav masterfully gives us a haunting glimpse of violence, state and non-state terrorism, social apathy and bureaucracy. It is a picture not limited to the Kashmir valley or to India, people in developing countries all over the world would be able to relate with these issues.” Congratulations, Anubha! Read the winning story [here](#) and more about Anubha [here](#).

IVLP alumnus Dr. Tamarish Kole’s work on emergency medical care featured on Times Now

SaveLIFE Foundation, an award winning non-profit non-government organization that focuses on improving road safety and emergency medical care across India, was recently featured on one of India's leading television news channel, Times Now. Dr. Tamarish Kole, an IVLP alumnus, who serves in the Board of Advisors of SaveLIFE Foundation was also featured in the same program by the channel as part of the Road Safety Awards 2014, sponsored by Maruti Suzuki Ltd. SaveLIFE Foundation, a member of the Clinton Global Initiative 2014, has been doing exceptional work to reduce road accident deaths and injuries in India. For more details please visit, www.savelifefoundation.org.



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- ❖ Access resources such as grants, jobs, and research databases

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